

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FY-99 5-YEAR IT PLAN**

### **Executive Summary-**

Surface Transportation Board (STB) is a three-member, bipartisan, decisionally independent, adjudicatory body organizationally housed within DOT which

- Seeks to facilitate commerce by providing an effective forum for efficient dispute resolution and facilitation of appropriate business transactions.
- Has rail oversight authority encompassing rate reasonableness, car service and interchange, mergers and line acquisitions, and line construction and abandonments.
- Has limited oversight responsibilities for the intercity bus industry and certain pipeline carriers; some rate regulatory authority over non-contiguous domestic water transportation, household goods carriers, and collectively determined motor rates; and continued authority to resolve motor carrier undercharge claims.

The major automation accomplishment in Fiscal Year 1998 was replacing 109 outmoded PC's (90 and 60 MHz) with more powerful 450 MHz PC's. The Board has also established a presence on the Internet in Fiscal Year 1998, providing the public with access to rulings, press releases, publications, and other information on STB activities.

The Board will place its primary automation emphasis on using its LAN effectively to facilitate communication within the Board and with the community by speeding the workflow between offices and by reducing the amount of paper exchanged. The Board also expects to increase reliability and speed of the LAN by spreading functions across multiple servers.

STB plans no major acquisitions.

STB will continue to maintain the currently existing applications. There are no plans for developing major applications.

IT budget includes full salary and benefits for one Supervisory Computer Specialist and two Computer Specialists; charges for a leased T1 line and monthly service fee; Facilities Management and System Support provided by John A. Voipe National Transportation Systems Center; and access to Federal Maritime Commission's Automated Tariff Filing System for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1999.

## **FY-99 5-YEAR IT PLAN**

**INITIATIVE ID:** STBOO001

**OA:** STB

**ORGANIZATION/ENTITY (OA OFFICE SYMBOL - PHONE BOOK CODE):**

**TITLE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT:**

UNIFORM RAIL COSTING SYSTEM AND WAYBILLS (URCSW)

**TOTAL LIFE CYCLE COST (IN \$000):** \$1,250

**DESCRIPTION:**

THE UNIFORM RAILROAD COSTING SYSTEM INCLUDES THE COMPUTER PROGRAMS AND MANUAL PROCEDURES USED TO PROVIDE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD (STB) WITH COST, REVENUE, AND OPERATIONAL (TRAFFIC FLOW) INFORMATION ON US RAILROADS. THE PROJECT IS DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN ACTIVITIES. THE FIRST CONSISTS OF DEVELOPING FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF THE COST OF TRANSPORTING FREIGHT BY THE US CLASS I RAILROADS. THE SECOND ACTIVITY CONSIST OF DEVELOPING, MAINTAINING, AND ANALYZING THE CARLOAD WAYBILL SAMPLE.

URCS IS A REGULATORY RAILROAD COST ACCOUNTING SYSTEM DEVELOPED IN-HOUSE BY THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION (ICC) AND MAINTAINED IN-HOUSE BY THE STB. IT CONSIST OF THREE PHASES. PHASE I DEVELOPS AN US CLASS I RAIROAD DATA BASE FROM SEVERAL SOURCES USING SEVERAL COMPUTER PROGRAMS AND STANDARD DATA BASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, SUCH AS, DEC 1022 AND MICROSOFT ACCESS. PHASE II CONSIST OF A SINGLE FORTRAN PROGRAM APPLIED ANNUALLY TO THE PHASE I DATA BASE TO DEVELOP CLASS I RAILROAD SYSTEM AVERAGE UNIT COST ESTIMATES AND OPERATING STATISTICS. PHASE III CONSIST OF A SINGLE INTERACTIVE PC DOS FORTRAN PROGRAM THAT DEVELOPS SHIPMENT COST ESTIMATES BASED ON THE PHASED II OUTPUT.

CARLOAD WAYBILL SAMPLE IS A STATISTICAL VALID SAMPLE OF US RAILROAD TRAFFIC DRAWN FROM US RAILROADS THAT TERMINATE FORTY-FIVE HUNDRED CARLOADS ANNUALLY. EACH YEAR'S SAMPLE IS MAINTAINED IN A SINGLE ASCII DATA FILE. SEVERAL IN-HOUSE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED PC FORTRAM AND C+ PROGRAMS ARE USED TO ANALYZE THE SAMPLE AND PROVIDE REPORTS WHICH SUPPORT THE STB'S RATE AND RESEARCH EFFORTS.

**JUSTIFICATION - PERFORMANCE AND SAVINGS:**

**CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER:** JEFF WARREN 202-565-1549

**CONTRACT STRATEGY:**

Developed inhouse

**INITIATIVE ID:** STBOO002

**OA:** STB

**ORGANIZATION/ENTITY (OA OFFICE SYMBOL - PHONE BOOK CODE):**

**TITLE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT:**

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**TOTAL LIFE CYCLE COST (IN \$000):** \$2,630

**DESCRIPTION:**

CASE IS AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM THAT AUTOMATES THE ENTRY, MAINTENANCE AND REPORTING OF INFORMATION ABOUT STB CASE PROCESSING. IT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE WORK PROCESS FOR ALL STB STAFF INVOLVED IN CASE HANDLING. IT SPECIFICALLY ENCOMPASSES THREE MAJOR TYPES OF FUNCTIONS:

1. CASE ENTRY AND TRACKING - THIS INCLUDES ASSIGNING AND MANAGING DOCKET NUMBERS, INITIALIZING AND RECORDING DATA FOR CASES FILED, AND TRACKING/REPORTING OVERALL CASE STATUS AND EVENTS.
2. PLEADINGS/PARTIES MANAGEMENT - THIS INCLUDES RECORDING/ DESSEMINATING DATA ABOUT ALL CASE PLEADINGS FILED, RECORDING/MAINTAINING DATA REGARDING ALL CASE RELATED PARTIES AND ENSURING/RECORDING PROPER SERVICE OF ALL CAS DOCUMENTATION.
3. MILESTONE/ACTION ITEM MANAGEMENT - THIS INCLUDES TRACKING PENDING/COMPLETED CASE ACTIVITIES, MAINTENING DATA REGARDING RESPONSIBILITY ASSIGNMENTS AND MONITORING/REPORTING DEADLINES/"RUSH" STATUS REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-GOING CASES.

THE CASE DATA RESIDES IN AN ORACLE 7 DATABASE. PROGRAMS ARE WRITTEN IN UNIFACE.

**JUSTIFICATION - PERFORMANCE AND SAVINGS:**

**CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER:** BETSEY DEWLAND 202-565-1705

**CONTRACT STRATEGY:** Interagency agreement with Volpe

**INITIATIVE ID:** STBOO003

**OA:** STB

**ORGANIZATION/ENTITY (OA OFFICE SYMBOL - PHONE BOOK CODE):**

**TITLE OF PROGRAM/PROJECT:**

LOCAL AREA NETWORK

**TOTAL LIFE CYCLE COST (IN \$000):** \$1,665

**DESCRIPTION:**

LAN - THE STB LAN PROVIDES A MEANS OF SHARING INFORMATION AMONG ALL STB USERS AND A COMMON COMPUTER INTERFACE. THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE LAN ARE AN NT 4.0 SERVER, A NOVELL 3.11 SERVER, 150 WINDOWS 95 WORKSTATIONS CONNECTED USING ETHERNET PROTOCOL, 3 WINDOWS 3.11 WORKSTATIONS, LOTUS NOTES 4.5.1 GroupWare.

**JUSTIFICATION - PERFORMANCE AND SAVINGS:**

**CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER:** BETSY DEWLAND 202-565-1705

**CONTRACT STRATEGY:** Reimbursable work order with GSA